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STATE GOVERNMENT SURVEY COMMITTEE

TASK FORCE REPORT

"MINES"



Francis J. Chesterman, Chairman,
State Government Survey Committee
455 Education Building,
P. G. Box 231,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Her Es J. Chiestamary Subspace 22, 1981

The Teprocleton of Mines facts not been jurisdiction over all concepts concert fact.

Meetings of the Task Force to survey the Department of Mines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been held with the following personnel participating:

Mr. Maurice Coulter, Indiana, Pa.

Mr. Edward C. Fox, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Carroll A. Garner, Hasleton, Pa.

Mr. R. T. Laing, Altoona, Pa.

Mr. Ralph H. Moore, Cresson, Pa.

Mr. John N. O'Neil, Harrisburg, Pa.

Mr. E. A. Siemon, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Harry A. Sutter, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Edgar C. Weichel, Scranton, Pa.

SCOPE OF SURVEY

This report of the Tank Force survey of the Department of Mines is submitted after a study of the subject to determine whether there are any duplications or overlapping of services which might be eliminated with resultant savings to the Commonwealth.

Your Task Force considered only administrative and legislative problems and not matters of policy of the Department of Mines. With this understanding in mind, your Task Force respectfully outlined the matters given consideration and study and makes its recommendations:

PINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. In view of the recommendations contained in paragraph B, dealing with expansion of the functions of the Department of Mines, it is found advisable that the name of the Department be changed.

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TOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT
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HINES BE CHANGED TO THE PERMISTLYANIA DEPARTHERT OF HIMES AND MINERALS.

LANGE OF THE SECTION TO A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CARRY STORY fire view and a production this way THE PARTY OF THE P the first of the first of the first of the first beginning and and the contract of the first of and a poster little and desired the free of the second AND AND THE PERSON OF THE PERS THE RESIDENCE PROPERTY OF TEACHERS IN and addition to a physical attachment AND COMMENTS OF PERSONS CARRIED SERVICES THE CHARLEST PROPERTY OF PARTY AND and adjusted a contract of the con-AND SECTIONS AND ADDRESS OF THE RESIDENCE OF and an authorizing permanent of the thirty and and the expension and the termination and the performance of the first termination NO DESCRIPTION OF THE PROOF RESIDENCE TO SELECT A STATE OF THE PART OF THE PROOF THE PROOF OF TH and the experience of the court of the experience of the court of the s de Consama en la The first car or and the less believed being a the property of the second ment of the the altrustice wine shift committee and the appearance and the galacty of deathing and track that the relative blacks much attended by the best bear that the contract of the contrac Consideration of the property and the second but CENTER SERVICE OF THE PARTY. The first of the second of the second COUNTY OF THE PARTY AND THE WASHINGTON TO AND AND THE PARTY OF THE PAR at parts of personal property and the engage of NOTICE OF ALLEYS CAP DID TO SULFER AT OF LOCAL PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE AT A LOUIS BAR WAS TO THE

Mr. F. J. Chesterman, December 22, 1952

B. Control and supervision over the extraction of minerals and other natural resources from the earth at present are divided among several departments, resulting in functional overlapping which might be eliminated. Limestone, and other quarrying, clay, iron ore, oil and gas are now under the jurisdiction of Departments other than the Department of Mines. Pennsylvania is the only State in which the Department of Mines does not have jurisdiction over all minerals resoved from the earth.

YOUR TASK PORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE THAT ALL INDUSTRIES HAVING TO DO WITH THE EXTRACTION OF WATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE EARTH WITH THE COMBONWEALTH, INCLUDING COAL, LIMESTONE AND OTHER QUARRIENG PRODUCTS, CLAY, INCH ORE AND ITS RELATED PRODUCTS, OIL AND GAS, BUT NOT EXCLUDING OTHER MINERALS NOT HERE NAMED. BE PLACED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPART-MENT OF MINES AND MINERALS. AS THIS RECOR-RENDATION INCLUDES INDUSTRIES NOT NOW UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRESENT DEPARTMENT OF MINES. IT CAN BE HADE EPPECTIVE ORLY THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH AND COOPERATION OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND THE REPRE-SENTATIVES OF THE AFFECTED INDUSTRIES. YOUR TASE PORCE, THESEPORE, PURTHER RECORDENDS THAT SUCH RECESSARY COMPRESCES BE PROMPTLY ARRANGED BY YOU AND YOUR COMMITTER.

C. Our study has revealed that mine sealing has not been effective and that generally it cannot be made effective. In some instances mines are sealed, but crevices on the surface allow water and air to enter those mines. Furthermore, the sealing of gas and cil wells has been equally ineffective for the reason that many such wells, having been abandoned long before the sealing program was initiated, were not located and sealed, and coal operators often encounter, in the course of their operations, abandoned gas wells. Because of the ineffectiveness of the mine-scaling program, the large amount of money expended therefore has not been justified and because we have found that it cannot be made effective, further expenditures therefore should be climinated.

TOUR TASK PORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT THE MINE-SEALIEG PROCEAN BE DISCONTINUED AND THE APPROPRIATION THEREFORE ELIMINATED.

D. Under the Strip Mining Acts affecting both the Bituminous and Anthracite industries, it is now necessary to deal with two state departments, the Department of Mines and the Department of Forests and Maters. The Department of Mines is responsible for looking after the safety of the strip mine workers and also for seeing that proper bonds are filed as a guarantee that operators will backfill, level, plant and referest. Upon receipt of the Completion Report, the Department

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Ers F. V. Chicalestown; Commonwood 22, 1955

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sends its inspector to determine whether the land has been prepared for replanting. This report is also sent to the Department of Forests and Maters, which also sends an inspector to determine whether the ground has been properly prepared. After planting, the Department of Forests and Maters investigates to determine whether the planting has been done in accordance with the specifications. Certification is then made to the Department of Mines that the planting is completed as required by law and the Department of Mines then recommends to the State Treasurer that the bond of the strip mine operator be released. This is a clear case of overlapping of functions and duplication of expense which could be eliminated.

TOUR TASE FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE THAT
THE STRIP HIRE ACTS BE AMERICAD TO PLACE
COMPLETE JURISDICTION OVER ALL STRIP HIRE
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HIRES AND
MINERALS, EXCEPT WHERE THE DEPARTMENT OF
RIESS AND MINERALS DETERMINES THAT IT IS
REASONABLE AND PRACTICABLE TO PLANT AND THAT
THE PLANTING WILL SUCCESS, AND THE OPERATOR
MAIVES ITS RIGHT TO PLANT, SICH PLANTING
SHALL HE PERFORMED AS HERETOFORE ST THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND MATERS AT THE REQUEST
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIRES AND RIBERALS.

E. Duplication of inspection functions and resulting duplication of expense incurred by the Permsylvania Department of Mines and the United States Eureau of Mines were given consideration. As one instance of this overlapping, the Federal Eureau of Mines handles electrical inspections, as does the State Department of Mines. Joint inspections and consolidation or coordination of reports by Federal and State inspectors would result in considerable savings of time and public moneys and would enable the mine operator to comply with safety recommendations of both State and Federal inspectors with a minimum of lost time, inconvenience and expense.

YOUR TASK PORCE RECOMMENTS, THEREFORE, THAT MINE INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS BY THE PRINCIPLE OF MINES AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF MINES BY COCRDINATED AND CONSCLIDATED AND THAT THE REPORTS OF THE SAME HE CONSCLIDATED POLLOWING THE JOINTLY COMMITTED MANUFACTURES BY ASSISTED.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Edward G. Fox

Edward G. Fox, Chairman Task Force Pennsylvania Department of Mines The state of the s

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